

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 013733

NODIS

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM CAPE TOWN DATED JANUARY WPN 1977
SENT SECSTATE WASHDC IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0073

NODIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLE FROM EDMONDSON

SUGGEST DEPARTMENT REPEAT LONDON, LUSAKA, NAIROBI

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, RH, SF

SUBJ: RHODESIA: SMITH MAY SEE RICHARD TWICE

REF: CAPE TOWN 0071 (NODIS)

1. BRITISH AMBASSADOR SIR DAVID SCOTT PROVIDED ADDITIONAL
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DETAILS ON EVENTS FOLLOWING IVOR RICHARD'S TALK WITH VORSTER.
AS REPORTED EARLIER, RHODESIAN REPRESENTATIVE HAROLD HAWKINS
WAS CALLED IN BY VORSTER IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE RICHARD-VORSTER
MEETING AND SUBSEQUENTLY CAME TO SEE SCOTT AND RICHARD AT THE
BRITISH EMBASSY. (ORIGINAL PURPOSE OF HAWKINS APPOINTMENT
WITH BRITISH WAS TO RECEIVE COPY OF ANTHONY CROSLAND'S REPLY
TO EARLIER LETTER FROM IAN SMITH, REPORTED IN CAPE TOWN 0045.)

ACCORDING TO SCOTT, HAWKINS "GOT QUITE AN EAR-BASHING" FROM VORSTER WHO VERY FIRMLY URGED SMITH NOT TO TURN DOWN THE BRITISH OFFER (OF DIRECT PARTICIPATION IN INTERIM GOVERNMENT) OUT OF HAND. HAWKINS ALSO TOLD SCOTT THAT HE HAD FORWARDED THE BRITISH PAPER TO SMITH THROUGH RHODESIAN CABINET SECRETARY JACK GAYLARD WITH A VERY STRONG RECOMMENDATION THAT THEY NOT SLAM THE DOOR. SCOTT, WHO SHOWED ME HIS REPORTING CABLE, SAID THAT HAWKINS SUBSEQUENTLY HEARD FROM RHODESIAN INTELLIGENCE CHIEF KEN FLOWER WHO "HAD THE IMPRESSION SMITH WOULD NOT CLOSE THE DOOR TO NEGOTIATIONS" THOUGH HE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE VERY TOUGH WITH RICHARD. FLOWER ALSO REPORTED TO HAWKINS THAT SMITH WAS CONSIDERING SEEING RICHARD BOTH TOMORROW AND AGAIN ON MONDAY JANUARY 24, JUST BEFORE RICHARD LEAVES RHODESIA.

2. SCOTT SAID HAWKINS READ TO HIM FROM HIS NOTES OF HIS MEETING WITH VORSTER, AND HE WAS IMPRESSED THAT HAWKINS USED SOME OF THE EXACT PHRASES THAT VORSTER HAD USED IN SUMMING UP AT THE MEETING WITH RICHARD, CONCLUDING THAT VORSTER HAD INDEED FOLLOWED THROUGH ON HIS PROMISE TO DO WHAT HE COULD TO KEEP THE NEGOTIATIONS ALIVE. SCOTT ADDED THAT VORSTER HAS ASKED MANY QUESTIONS IN THE TALK WITH RICHARD, NOT IN A HOSTILE FASHION, BUT AS IF HE WERE TRYING TO "GATHER AMMUNITION" FOR HIS NEXT TALK WITH SMITH, WHENEVER THAT MIGHT OCCUR. HE CONCLUDED THAT THE RECEIVED HEARING WHICH VORSTER GAVE RICHARD YESTERDAY AND THE MESSAGE WHICH VORSTER HAD PASSED TO HAWKINS CONFIRMED THAT VORSTER HAD TAKEN VERY SERIOUSLY THE NEED TO KEEP NEGOTIATIONS OPEN AND WAS "PLAYING STRAIGHT" WITH THE BRITISH. NOTING THAT VORSTER HAD SEEMED CONFIDENTIAL

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VERY WELL PREPARED FOR THE MEETING, SCOTT REPEATED APPRECIATIVELY HIS SURMISE THAT THE MESSAGE VORSTER RECEIVED THROUGH AMBASSADOR BOTHA IN WHISHING THAT HE HAD BEEN VERY HELPFUL.

3. SCOTT SAID IVOR RICHARD RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM FCO MINISTER OF STATE TED ROWLANDS LATE LAST NIGHT SAYING THAT IF THE TALKS IN SALISBURY ENDED IN ANYTHING LIKE A PUBLIC REJECTION, ROWLAND WOULD NOT WANT RICHARD TO COME BACK TO LONDON RIGHT AWAY. RICHARD, WHO BELIEVES IN THINKING POSITIVELY, DOES NOT BELIEVE THIS IS A SERIOUS DANGER AND IN ANY EVENT FELT THAT HE WOULD NEED NEW INSTRUCTIONS IN ANY EVENT IF THAT HAPPENED. HE VERY MUCH WANTS TO RETURN TO LONDON FOR 3 OR 4 DAYS NEXT WEEK EVEN THOUGH LONDON DOES NOT SEEM TERRIBLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT IT.

4. IT NOW APPEARS RICHARD WILL STAY IN RHODESIA UNTIL MONDAY, PARTICULARLY IF THERE IS A CHANCE OF SMITH WANTING TO SEE HIM TWICE. A LOT OF ADDITIONAL PEOPLE OF IMPORTANCE HAVE ASKED

TO SEE HIM, INCLUDING RHODESIA UNIVERSITY VICE CHANCELLOR HENRY MCDOWELL, QUITE APART FROM BUSY PROGRAM LAID ON BY MR. KELLY (NOT EDDY AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED) WHO IS SECRETARY OF A COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF PRESIDENTS OF SUCH PARASTATE GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS AS THE RHODESIAN NATIONAL FARMERS UNION, RHODESIA TOBACCO GROWERS ASSOCIATION, CAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, ETC. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, JOHN STRONG, WHO IS PRESIDENT OF THE FARMERS UNION, SAID IN AN INTERVIEW WITH SABC THIS MORNING THAT RICHARD WOULD SPEND DAY AND A HALF VISITING FARMS, MINES, INDUSTRIES, BANKS, AND COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS WITHIN AN 80 MILE "CIRCUMFERENCE" (SIC) OF SALISBURY TO GIVE HIM A "MAXIMUM SENSE OF AWARENESS OF THE UNIQUENESS OF THE RHODESIAN SCENE," ESPECIALLY THE "UNIQUENESS OF THE ECONOMY." STRONG, WHO HIMSELF FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO SEE A RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA TALKS, SAID RICHARD WAS WELL-INFORMED, BUT WELCOMED AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE. TO QUESTIONS, HE SAID
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RICHARD WOULD BE TALKING TO SOME FAIRLY LARGE GROUPS WHO WOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO PUT QUESTIONS TO HIM.

5. NEXT STEPS: SCOTT SAID RICHARD PLANS TO SEND HIS PLANE AND ONE OF HIS PARTY AS A COURIER TO LUSAKA ON SATURDAY, BOTH TO PASS ON COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT HIS MEETING WITH SMITH AND TO RECEIVE ANY INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION FROM LONDON. SHOULD WE WISH TO PASS ANY INFORMATION OR MESSAGES TO RICHARD, SCOTT SAID WE COULD PROVIDE THEM TO BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER MILES IN LUSAKA BY EARLY SATURDAY AM. SCOTT FELT IT WAS MOST LIKELY THAT RICHARD WOULD NOT LEAVE SALISBURY UNTIL MONDAY, JANUARY 24 AND THAT HE MIGHT GO STRAIGHT FROM A SECOND MEETING WITH SMITH TO NAIROBI TO SPEND MONDAY NIGHT THERE BEFORE FLYING ON TO LONDON.

6. HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT WHILE I WAS SEEING SCOTT, HAWKINS CAME TO SEE AMBASSADOR WHO IS REPORTING SEPTEL.
BOWDLER
UNQUOTE HABIB

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Message Attributes

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